

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSE-00 /056 W

-----202138Z 100915 /40

R 201030Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8352

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 2092

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, NP

SUBJ: KIN CALLS FOR STUDY OF PANCHAYAT REFORMS

REF: KATHMANDU 2082

1. HIS MAJESTY MAY 19 ISSUED A DIRECTIVE TO THE BACK TO THE VILLAGE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN CALLING UP IT TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WITH PANCAHAYAT WORKERS TO GIVE HIM A "CLEAR-CUT OPINION AS TO WHAT CHANGES,

IF ANY, SHOULD BE MADE IN THE RULES OR PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO FOSTER GREATER PARTICIPANTION OF THE PEOPLE WITHIN THE FUNDAMENTAL TENETS OF THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM".

2. THE KING SAID THAT "IT HAS COME TO OUR ATTNETION THAT SOME PANCHAS ARE NOT WHOLLY HAPPY WITH THE PRESENT PROCEDURES ASOPTED WITH A VIEW TO ENSURE ELECTIONS BY CONSENSUS." THE KING NOTED THAT AS THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM IS A DYNAMIC ONE IT SHOULD "REJECT SHORT-COMINGS IF IT SUFFERS FROM ANY".

3. COMMENT: THE KING'S DIRECTIVE IS ACONSIDERABLE RETREAT FROM HIS PREVIOUS SUPPORT FOR ELECTIONS BY CONSENSUS. BY TURNING THE ISSUE OVER TO THE BACK TO THE VILLAGE CAMPAIGN HE HAS ON THE
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ONE HAND PROLONGED THE DEBATE (SINCE REGIONAL MEETINGS WILL DRAG ON FOR SEVERAL MOTHS) AND, ON THE OTHER, DIVESTED HIMSELF OF PERSONAL LIABILITY IN HAVING TO DEFEND THE PRESENT SYSTEM. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THE KING'S DIRECTIVE WILL SPARK A LONG SERIES OF DEBATES SIMILAR TO THOSE OF 1975 ON METHODS TO INTRODUCE LIBERAL REFORMS WHILE PRESERVING CENTRAL PALACE CONTROL. THE KING'S DECISION IS NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF THE WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION

WITH THE VIRTUAL ABOLITION OF ELECTION IN THE WAKE OF THE SECOND
CONSTITUTIONAL AMEDMENT AND IT WILL ALSO SERVE TO DEFUSE THE ISSUE
OF REFORM WITH INDIA, SINCE HE CAN IN ESSENCE SAY THAT THE ISSUE
OF LIBERALIZATION HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE PEOPLE FOR THEIR
DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS. WE WOULD EPXPECT THATTHE PALACE,
HOWEVER, WILL BE CAREFUL TO KEEP THOSE DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE
PARAMETERS OF THE BACK TO THE VILLAGE IN ORDER TO AVOID THE
SITUATION IN 1975 WHEN DEMANDS FOR DEEP AND SIGNIFICANT CHANGES
IN THE SYSTEM NEARLY GOT OUT OF CONTROL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: KING, GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: KIN CALLS FOR STUDY OF PANCHAYAT REFORMS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, NP
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